

Good Evening - I am a Newark based Flight Attendant for United Airlines, and would like to state my objections to the use of cell phones on airplanes.

-The interference that cell phones may cause relating to our navigational systems is a strong concern. The safety of our aircraft should be paramount to the desire of our passengers to chat on their cell phones.

-Also, have any of you ever seen us try to brief exit row passengers while at the gate? Well, generally at least half the folks are chatting on their phones. When you attempt to brief them they stick a finger up in the air, and ignore us. I can only imagine how difficult a situation cell phone use would create should we have to do a mid air prep, or evacuate during taxi, or at the gate.

-Would it not make it very convenient for terrorists to coordinate a plan to devastate us again? Nothing like giving the bad guys the ability to conference call another plan. What are you thinking???

-Also, imagine one hundred folks all talking on their phones at once. As it is customers do not show much consideration to their fellow travelers. I can only envision all of those "loud" conversations taking place while others are trying to rest, etc. If a passenger really needs to make a call they can use our air phones, otherwise it can certainly wait until after we have landed.

-Personally, I even think it was a huge mistake to allow folks to use their cell phones after landing, during taxi to the gate. We would have a nightmare on our hands if for some reason the Captain had to stop taxi, and order an evacuation. I do believe that you have put all of our safety at risk by even allowing this.

From parental guidance to government, our country has become so accustomed to those in authority bowing down. Parents today do not know how to say no to their children for fear of upsetting their little Johnny, and now various government agencies seemed to have fallen into the same pattern.

This is a no brainer folks, the use of cell phones is bound to create a safety hazard to our aircraft, crew members, and of course the well being of our passengers. Please, do not allow cell phone use of airplanes!

Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,
Brenda B. Oakes
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